

DOUGLAS SOUTH

Vote

BILL

MALARKEY



**Your Local Candidate Working For Fellow Residents
of South Douglas and the Future of the Isle of Man**

**If you wish to discuss anything in this manifesto
please contact me:**

billmalarkey@manx.net

www.votebillmalarkey.com

Keyden House, 19 Farmhill Park, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM2 2EE
Home: 624634 Mobile: 450003

Where Will We Be In Five Years Time?

Will we have weathered the global economic storm or will we be patching up a sinking ship? What shape will we be in; fit and nimble, or weather-beaten and tired? Will we be proud and prosperous, or poor and pitiful? These are just a few of the questions no-one can answer but reflect the concerns of many as is evident by the numerous discussions I am having on the doorstep.

The last 5 years have been extremely challenging for the Isle of Man, and certainly an interesting time to have entered politics. We have witnessed the withdrawal and reinstatement of the Reciprocal Health Agreement, the collapse of the KSF Bank along with an unprecedented banking crisis which has fuelled a global recession; our VAT receipts have been cut not once, but twice to the tune of £175m.

There are choppy waters ahead and we need a strong dynamic team of leaders at the helm. The last 5 years have left me under no illusion that we need experience and vision, coupled with an unwavering determination to take tough decisions - and see them through to their conclusion - if we are to protect and grow our prosperous and caring society.

As a businessman I could clearly see that continuing on a path of uncontrolled and irresponsible spending will ultimately end in tears; a legacy of debt is not what I desire for my 3 daughters or any future generation.

I entered politics to make a positive difference to the Island I love; I am Manx born, went to school in Douglas, have worked and lived here all my life - the last 17 years in Douglas South - and I will retire here. I am passionate about doing everything I can to protect and expand the many unique benefits we all enjoy on our beautiful Island.

In a small community such as ours, a clear political direction backed by sound decision making and financial management is not a luxury, it is a necessity. In fact, it is vital if we are to prosper, not just survive. Building our economy is vitally important, as is protecting our Health Service, Education and caring for the less able in our society.

Some aspects of politics are a far cry from the hustle and bustle of business. 'Learning the ropes' in the political arena to effectively represent my constituents at both local, and national levels has been a steep learning curve. I have learnt to integrate the business skills I brought to the Tynwald table with my political passion during my first term as your MHK.

As a Member of the Department of Home Affairs I am responsible for the Chief Minister's Drug & Alcohol Strategy, and the Prison & Probation Service, and as a Member of the Department of Social Care I am responsible for Social Services including the Department's budget. I have sat on many Tynwald Committees including the Legal Aid Select Committee, and the IOM Steam Packet Select Committee to name just two.

But what does this mean to you?

Let me give you just one example how I have made a difference and 'paid my way' over the last 5 years. When given control for the Social Services Budget, I was expected to approve a number of pending tenders. My experience from the business world has taught me to scrutinise everything before signing a contract. I was not satisfied that the taxpayer was getting best value for money and renegotiated some of the terms of the contracts where I felt they could be improved.

The result of my negotiations was cost savings in excess of £1m. Same service, lower price tag - *which means the same amount of money, goes further.* This is just one small example of how government efficiency can be improved *without* cutting frontline services.

With that in mind, I ask for your support during our election on 29th September 2011 and allow me to continue working for you to ensure your voice is heard both in Tynwald and beyond.

I have done my apprenticeship. I now know how the government machine works. I know its strengths, and above all, I know its weaknesses and the areas we need to improve. I know how to make your vote count. Together let's continue to make a difference.

Please use one of your two votes on election day to

Vote Malarkey

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The Bigger Picture

Our Economy

Our Economy is by far the biggest challenge we face today and we are all only too aware that the well publicised renegotiated VAT agreement with the UK has significantly reduced our income. We have two choices; either increase our income, or cut our expenses. **OR a combination of both!**

The government machine should continue to improve efficiency and we most certainly need to expand our sources of revenue. We have got many things right over recent years, for example, we are a major player in multiple sectors including: Finance, Shipping, Aviation, e-Gaming and more recently Space. All things we should be proud of!

To maintain our quality of life we need to grow our global presence and adapt to changing and challenging times quickly, efficiently, and above all boldly.

We need to be fit, nimble, visionary and above all we need to take tough decisions in tough times by planning and acting for the long term prosperity of our beloved Island. We need to rebalance our approach to our economy and make certain we take advantage of every new opportunity as it arises.

The Isle of Man has a wealth of talented entrepreneurs both retired and active. We should utilise their experience and contacts in order to become a much larger player on the world stage and reaching far further a field than Europe, which, I believe, is crumbling around us. We have an opportunity of selling our growing stable economy and attracting their business. We must not be frightened to invest in order to reap the rewards and I fully support the new working relationship between the Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Economic Development.

I believe one of the biggest problems that we now face is creating sustainable employment for the under 25's. We must take the lead and encourage private sector employers to take on young employees providing a route to nurture and utilise fresh talent and fresh ideas. Financial incentives such as paying Job Seekers Allowance directly to employers in exchange for jobs and training would be attractive to young employees and employers alike.

Whilst looking for ways to diversify our economy, we should not lose sight of what we already have on our doorstep. Years ago tourism was one of the Island's main sources of income; it could be again with more structured and competitive fares. Previous Governments have allowed the IOM Steam Packet Company User Agreement to become a commodity on the stock exchange resulting in the company servicing debts of around £230m.

I anticipate the present owners (several Portuguese Banks) will seek a further extension to enable them to sell the company at yet another inflated price to help regain their losses.

We MUST resist this in order to help the company revert back to its true market value and not that of OUR User Agreement;

It is then - and only then - that we should consider taking control of this vital asset to our survival. My preferred solution would be for the public Sector Pension Fund to purchase the company and run it for the good of our Island whilst providing a guaranteed income stream to reduce the Public Sector Pension Liability.

In the meantime we must work closer with the Steam Packet and the airlines to encourage more deals for package holidays, and the many visitors who come over not just for festivals such as the TT, MGP, but other events as well. In a bid to gain cheaper flights to and from the Island we need to review our open skies policy.

Whilst focussing on what work we have yet to do, let's not lose sight of what we have achieved to date:

Our current net forecast growth of 4% to 5% makes ours one of the fastest growing economies in Europe; we are not, and have not, been in recession (we have not been in negative growth). We have low unemployment at 2%, £1.4 billion in reserves, a Triple-A credit rating, and are now back on the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) white list. Not forgetting to mention having one of the lowest crime rates in Europe.

Is it any wonder that we are the envy of our competitors? But there is no time for complacency...

In business I had to spend my money wisely. And nothing has changed since I entered politics! I am strongly against wasting money on 'white elephants' such as the Airport Runway Extension (£29m), Richmond Hill (£2.9m) and Ramsey Pier (£1.8m); all of which **I voted against in Tynwald** as it was debatable whether or not there was any direct benefit to the Manx Taxpayer.

Recent figures show that the MEA showrooms lost £400,000 for the trading period 2009/10. It beggars belief that the Government uses taxpayer's money to subsidise its own 'commercial enterprises' that are in direct competition with the Private Sector. Decisions like this defy common sense let alone economic sense and must be stopped.

Let's ensure we invest our money wisely on a steady stream of capital projects which not only benefit our community on many levels, but also offer a lifeline to many of the Island's trades. Capital projects such as schools and housing are good for the community as a whole, and I strongly believe we should focus our resources on things we need, and not things we might like to have but cannot, in all honesty, justify or afford.

We need to invest our taxes wisely not waste them! We absolutely must make every penny count whether we're in times of austerity or not!

Scope of Government

I have said on many occasions that '**Government should govern not run**'. Just before the last election, a comprehensive review into the scope and structure of government was published by a number of eminent members of our community. Many recommendations were made, many very practical, some controversial – but all well meaning and worth considering. Many would have given us another shield of armour to protect us from an uncertain future. Many opportunities to protect our children's future have been lost. It is now time to face reality full on and rise to many of the challenges ignored by our recent Chief Minister.

At the very least, we should revisit the scope of government and ask the authors to bring this document up to date to reflect our current situation. The next Chief Minister must not dismiss their recommendations in the same way the last one did. It should be openly debated in Tynwald and used as a basis to set our strategic course for the next 5 years and beyond.

I am not in favour of wholesale privatisation and believe a balance between the private and public sectors would provide a more balanced approach. Selling off our 'Crown Jewels' such as the Gaiety, Villa Marina and Airport is not the answer. Government should retain these assets but work with specialists from the Private Sector to manage and operate these facilities on the government's behalf. Public / Private Partnerships are a proven formula to provide the taxpayer with better value for money. ***I reiterate - 'Government should govern not run'***.

Our government is top heavy, over staffed, and far too bureaucratic; this is a matter which needs to be addressed urgently. It is simply no longer fit for purpose. However, mass redundancies are **NOT** the answer and would spiral us into recession. Treasury figures suggest that an unemployed person costs the taxpayer approximately £16,000 a year in benefits and lost NI and Tax revenues.

A fit, nimble and forward looking Government can provide effective solutions to the problems thrown at us in an ever changing world. We need answers not questions, solutions not challenges, and, above all,

strong leadership resulting in decisive action. Action to secure our long term prosperity, and not just 'skirt around the edges' lamely offering sacrifices to the political lamb.

Local Government

It is not just National Government that needs to be streamlined – we also need to revisit the scope, structure, and role of our Local Authorities. I believe there has never been a better time to revisit Local Government and how it is run. We must drastically reduce Local Authority's costs and aim for an all Island rate. We also need a fairer system to assess the way we charge water rates. A population of only 80,000 does not need so much bureaucracy to operate, it will be a difficult job convincing those members of Tynwald who live outside Douglas and pay reduced rates of this, but I am committed to pursuing this agenda.

Health

Whether or not money is in short supply it is essential that we maintain our high standards of Education, Health, and Social Care. We should not be looking to cut our spending in these crucial areas. Improving efficiency is the only way to drive up standards without additional burden to the taxpayer.

We all need to pull together to protect the many benefits we enjoy here on the Island. The Reciprocal Health Agreement is a good example of how many sections of our society pulled together for the greater good. The lobbying groups and many in Government, both forward facing and behind the scenes, brought this key issue to a satisfactory conclusion for the benefit of all.

We enjoy a world class Health Service. I am as committed to protecting it as I am to improving it and I know many of you will share my passion on this subject. Let's stop wasting money on wild capital fantasies and redirect our valuable resources to reduce waiting lists.

Education

Our children are our future. Old cliché but still a statement of fact!

Maintaining the high standard of education available here on the Island in all areas is the minimum we should aim for. Our bar has been set. Recently published GCSE 'O' and 'A' Level results once again produced very pleasant reading for all those in education. Teachers and students alike should be congratulated on their achievements. Our school leavers are well placed to either enter the job market, or continue into Higher Education and we should continue to support them, but we must not become complacent.

As I mentioned when I discussed the economy above, I am in favour of additional support and job related training to meet the current needs of the job market. We must create a steady flow of sustainable jobs for the under 25's to ensure home grown talent stays on the Island for the benefit of the Island. We must reap the rewards of the investment the education system has made in the next generation if we are to continually evolve and protect our long term future.

Equally we must be more focussed on higher education. Areas that deliver direct benefit to the local economy should be high on the Government's agenda. For example, business related degrees and advanced studies, such as higher degrees specialising in eGaming, marketing, and finance – disciplines that directly benefit our economy - should receive government support. This is essential if we are to deepen our rich pool of talent that attracts companies from around the globe to contribute to our economy - we must make better use of our International Business School.

Social Care

Social Care covers many aspects of care and support for a wide range of challenges including; our aging population, the fallout from broken homes, helping those with learning difficulties, and providing support for people with mental health issues.

During my time in Social Services it has become obvious to me precisely what the long term effects issues such as drugs and alcohol can have on not just the family unit but society as a whole. A long term strategy is now in place and dedicated teams have been appointed to implement it. The long term benefits of this strategy are immense and should ultimately reduce the cost to our society.

All those working in these areas have an important and extremely difficult job to do as they deal with real people and real problems - often with heart wrenching stories - on a daily basis. We should support and encourage those who do these very challenging jobs which make such a difference to the lives of the less able in our society.

I do not advocate blindly throwing money at these problems in the hope that it will solve everything. It won't! As with health and education we need to ensure we consistently get best value for money whilst continually raising the standards of the services we provide. This is why we must continue to work closely with the 3rd sector/charitable organisations that provide a wealth of support for our government services.

Housing

The next administration must continue to deliver Public Sector Housing and First Time Buyer opportunities for Manx workers. I am in favour of expanding and improving our housing stock as this not only provides decent homes for decent people, it also provides much needed jobs for our local industries.

Before we contemplate reviewing rents we must first upgrade the housing stock to ensure it is fit for purpose and offers value for money to both tenant and the taxpayer alike. More efficient homes cost less to run and, in turn, have many positive effects on the environment. An additional benefit is work for the building trade. This is a long term investment in homes, people and the environment.

Law and Order

The latest figures released by the police indicate that the Isle of Man is one of the safest places in Europe to live, with low crime and high detection rates. Our drugs unit has been extremely successful in recent times and many offenders have been taken off the streets and are considering their future in Jurby.

The working relationship between the alcohol unit and the licensing trade is at an all time high, and when you add the success of the neighbourhood policing I believe we have an awful lot to be thankful for. We must not become complacent and we must strive to become even more efficient without becoming over policed.

Legislation we must now implement:

- The Disability Discrimination Act

Legislation we must bring forward:

- Freedom of Information Bill
- Landlord Registration Bill
- Age Discrimination Bill
- Transfer of Undertakings Regulations (TUPE)

Legislation I am keen to review:

- Health and Safety Act and the Data Protection Act

Both these Acts need to be streamlined and made fit for purpose here on the Isle of Man. There are some good elements to both Acts but, we should focus on the spirit of these Acts to protect the Manx public and not take a heavy handed unrealistic Dickensian approach, which I believe, is strangling our economy.

Other items on my agenda include:

- I strongly believe that our Chief Minister should be elected by the people. Candidates for Chief Minister should lay out their policies detailing the direction they will take our Island to secure its long term prosperity.
- Election of the Legislative Council by the public is a must.
- In June 2010 I attempted to introduce a motion to Tynwald to make members contribute to their pensions and although it failed at the time it is due to be put on the agenda of the new parliament! I am committed to ensure that it happens.
- During my time in Tynwald I have fought to protect Douglas taxi owners and drivers from unfair trade and I believe that we have come very close to finding a solution to this long running dispute which I hope to be able to see to a satisfactory conclusion if elected for a second term.



The **NUMBER ONE** priority for the next Government must be to create a balanced and transparent budget which guarantees the long term viability of our Island.



A Fairer Deal for Douglas

Why should Douglas pay more than its fair share? I have campaigned tirelessly to ensure the balance between local and national government offers a fair deal to the residents of Douglas. A case in point is the Bowl, which if it had been funded part by Douglas Town Council and part by Government as was proposed by Government, Douglas residents would have contributed twice – once through their taxes and once through their rates. I worked hard to ensure that this did not happen and it is now a national facility, funded by the national cheque book.

We have all noticed the decline in the retail trade over recent years and many shops lie empty in Strand Street. Yet National Government is still considering allowing more retail units to be built on the Lord Street site. I firmly believe that we should regenerate this area from a social perspective not a commercial perspective. We simply do not need more shops to lie empty for years to come when the site could be put to far better use.

I have proposed that we work in partnership with a developer whereby they build us a state of the art bus station with appropriate sheltered waiting areas for passengers encompassing facilities such as a café. The site is also big enough to house an indoor arena which could be utilised for seasonal entertainment such as ice skating, bowling, roller skating, and all manner of community and youth activities and festivals that do not lend themselves to venues like the Villa Marina. It could focus on facilities and entertainment for teenagers who could easily get to and from the venue by bus from all over the Island.

In exchange for developing a public facility on the ground floor the developer could utilise the space above to develop their own commercially viable project, be it a hotel, apartments, or offices. Yet another example where the public and private sectors can work together and serve the community better as a whole - a real win / win – and at no direct cost to the taxpayer.

At a local level each area has their problems and concerns

Anagh Coar (Polling Station – Anagh Coar School 8am-8pm)

My wife, Councillor Carol Malarkey, and Councillor David Christian have both recently commented on the state of some of Douglas Corporation housing stock, I totally agree that it is time to invest in these properties.

You may be aware that three years ago, Carol and I attempted to get planning permission for a Community Hall on the grass land near the Heron. We had planning granted in principle but hit a stone wall with many Town Councillors who refused to release the land. We still believe that the residents of Anagh Coar should have some type of Community Centre and are still committed to this project.

Pulrose (Polling Station - Pulrose Methodist Church 8am-8pm)

The local regeneration projects are already making a notable difference to the area and when building is complete in Upper Pulrose we will have a new Police Station. A facility for our youth and community is something that I fully support and on completion of the works the existing Police Station will become available! Its position and size naturally lend itself to providing a new dedicated local community facility. I will actively pursue this option if elected for a second term.

As with most estates on the Island the speed of the traffic is a concern and Pulrose is no exception. I believe better traffic calming measures should be introduced both through the estate and along Groves Road and I am committed to perusing a solution to this problem.

Farmhill / Saddlestone (Polling Station – Scoill Vallajeelt 8am-8pm)

Speeding on Stephenson Way, a zebra crossing at the top bus stop, and large pot holes in Farmhill and Saddlestone roads are just some of the traffic problems we have dealt with in recent months. Budgets are tight but safety issues such as these MUST come high on our priority list and I remain committed to resolving these issues if re-elected.

A great community achievement in Farmhill was to save the Manor House from being deregistered and possibly pulled down. The developers have restored it to its former glory and it is now a desirable residence in the heart of Farmhill. My thanks go to all of you that joined me in this campaign; I have no doubt that the petition signed by so many of you went a long way towards convincing the Inspector to keep it registered.

Hillside Avenue (The Warehouse next to Plumb & Parts Centre, South Quay 8am-8pm) NEW VENUE

Again traffic speed is still an issue in this area. Sadly speed bumps cannot be installed due to the amount of ambulance traffic. I still believe a better solution must be found to take the ambulances away from this area. Relocating the Ambulance Station may be a solution to this problem and is something I would actively investigate if elected for a second term.

Many of you talked about the state of your doors and gates. As stated earlier in my manifesto, I believe that this is the time to be investing in our housing stock. It would not only create jobs but increase the value of our properties. I will be supporting any such projects in this area.

The Quay / Head Road (The Warehouse next to Plumb & Parts Centre, South Quay 8am-8pm) NEW VENUE

Over the past few years, I have helped many residents fighting planning applications on various sites around the area and we have been successful on many occasions. I believe one of the big issues in the coming years will be the bid to alter the inner harbour and claim more parking on the quay in front of Hillary and Ravens Wharf Apartments. I have, and will continue, to fight these proposals as being both extremely costly and unnecessary for this area.

I am becoming increasingly concerned – if not appalled - by the state of many boats moored around the marina area. We have invested millions of pounds creating this beautiful marina and its surroundings. But our efforts are being overshadowed by these ill maintained vessels and, if re-elected, I will make their removal a priority and ensure a minimum standard is set and maintained so the area retains the opulent feel its designers created.

I would like to close by saying a big 'THANK YOU'

- To all my supporters and helpers in the run up to the election and those who have offered help on election day itself, to those who have worked tirelessly to get my message out.
- To my campaign team, in particular my Campaign Manager Chris Kent, and David Ashford who provided me with support in so many areas and without whom, things would simply have not been done.
- To my Proposer: Chris Hall and Seconder: Jerry Linehan for their support and encouragement in keeping my passion and drive vibrantly alive - and regularly holding me to account (there is no escape from politics!)
- To my family and in particular to my wife, Carol, who has worked diligently to assist in resolving many local issues since being elected to Douglas Town Council, as well as her support with my daughters during the election campaign itself, I am sure they will all be glad when it is over!
- And most importantly, a big 'Thank You' to You - my fellow residents of Douglas South - for giving me the opportunity to realise my political ambitions five years ago when you first elected me to represent you in the House of Keys. I hope your support will continue on September 29th and into another term.

If you have any transportation problems on polling day please contact me for assistance.

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